Watsonville Slough System
Managed Aquifer Recharge and Recovery Projects

EIR Scoping Meeting
June 12, 2019
Presenters and Other Team Members

PV Water Staff
  • Brian Lockwood, Marcus Mendiola

Carollo Engineers
  • Paul Friedlander

ESA
  • Jim O’Toole, Alena Maudru

Katz & Associates
  • Maureen Barry, Natalia Hentschel

PV Water Directors
PV Water Directors
Four Elected &
Three Appointed
- Tom Broz
- Javier Zamora
- One Seat Vacant

Mary Bannister
Division A

Don Bussey
Division B

Amy Newell
Division C

Bob Culbertson
Division D

Electoral Divisions

Explanation
- Cities & Towns
- Streets
- Division A
- Division B
- Division C
- Division D

Miles

Pajaro Valley
Water Management Agency
Key Meeting Details

• Sign in
• Meeting Materials
• Written comments due by 5:00 pm on July 1, 2019
  • Spanish and English accepted
• Submit written comments by comment card, mail or email:

  Brian Lockwood, General Manager
  Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
  36 Brennan Street
  Watsonville, CA 95076
  Email: eir@pvwater.org
Meeting Purpose

• Hear your comments on scope, focus of environmental review
  • Issues you would like to see addressed in the EIR

• Community and Agency Input on:
  • Environmental setting (existing conditions in area of Projects)
  • Environmental effects (agriculture, hydrology, biological resources, etc.)
  • Methods of assessment
  • Potential mitigation measures to reduce environmental effects
  • Potential alternatives to the Proposed Project
Agenda

• Introductions
• Key Meeting Details
• Proposed Project Overview
• Environmental Review Process
• Environmental Topics
• Comments and Questions
Overview of Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge and Recovery Projects
Overview

• Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
• Basin Management Plan Update
• Proposed Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge and Recovery Projects
  • Purpose
  • Project Components
  • Operations
  • Schedule
A Need To Achieve Sustainability

- The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (September 2014) requires that critically overdrafted groundwater basins, such as the Pajaro Valley, be brought into balance by 2040.
- If not, the State will intervene and may impose pumping restrictions.
Valley-wide Water Use
- Agriculture ~ 85%
- M & I ~ 13%
- Rural Residential ~ 2%

Water Sources
- 93% Groundwater
  - ~1,000 Ag Wells
  - ~1,200 RR Wells
- 1% Surface Water
- 6% Recycled Water
Seawater Intrusion within the Pajaro Valley

Explanation

- Cities & Towns
- PVWMA Boundary
- Extent of SWI as of 1951*
- Extent of SWI as of 1966*
- Extent of SWI as of 1998*
- Extent of SWI as of 2011*
- Extent of SWI as of 2017*

*Extent of SWI area represents chloride concentrations of 100 mg/L or greater

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Prepared by PV Water on August 1, 2016. This document is a graphic representation developed using the best currently available data sources & professional judgement.
A few notes for context...

• These are *Proposed Projects* that were included at a program level with 5 other proposed projects in the Basin Management Plan Update (BMP).

• The BMP was developed through a public process by a 21 member stakeholder committee that met for over two years, and it was recommended for implementation by the Board of Directors.
A few notes context (cont.)

- The PV Water Board of Directors has not taken any formal action with respect to these proposed Projects except to direct staff to proceed with the CEQA process and file a water-right application.

- *Environmental* and *Fiscal* issues need to be analyzed by staff and experts and discussed at the Board level, with input from the public and key stakeholders before PV Water can make any final decisions regarding moving forward with the proposed Projects.
Community Input is Critical

• Community input has been and remains important to the PV Water Board and staff

• BMP Update Development
  • 2010 – 2012: BMP Stakeholder Committee Meetings
  • 2012 – 2014: CEQA Process, Programmatic EIR

• Community Meetings
  • July 10, 2017, Open House & Community Meeting

• Regularly scheduled Board and Committee Meetings

• Staff attendance at Stakeholder meetings

• Annual Reports, Newsletters, Social Media, etc.
Basin Management Plan Update

• 21 Member Stakeholder Committee
  • Investigated all practical options at the time

• 44 Potential Solutions Discussed
  • 7 Projects & Programs Recommended

• Multi-year, Public Process
  • > 1,500 person hours & 23 meetings
Basin Management Plan Update contains three primary components to achieve 12,100 AFY:

- Development of New Water Supplies: 4,100 AFY
- Conservation of Existing Water Supplies: 5,000 AFY
- Optimization of Existing Water Supplies: 3,000 AFY

AFY – acre-feet per year
Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge and Recovery Projects

• Harkins Slough Facilities Upgrades Project
• Struve Slough Project
• Goals:
  • Diversion, recharge & recovery of up to 4,000 AFY
Harkins Slough Facilities Upgrades Project

• PV Water facilities constructed in 2002
• Water Right Permit: up to 2,000 AFY
• Lower than expected recharge and recovery rates
Harkins Slough Facilities Upgrade Project

- Upgrades to existing facilities
  - Add filters, coagulation
  - Replace pumps
  - Modify intake
- Southwest and Southeast recharge basins, recovery wells
- Pipelines
Struve Slough Project

- New water right permit
- Point of diversion: Struve Slough
Struve Slough Project

- Screened intake
- Pump station
- Monitoring Well #7 recharge basin, recovery wells
- Pipelines
Proposed Operations and Maintenance: Both Projects

• Continue diversion, filtration, recharge, recovery, distribution of water from Harkins Slough
• Diversion, filtration, recharge, recovery, distribution of water from Struve Slough
• Operation and maintenance of intake, pump stations, filter plant, pipelines, recharge basins, recovery wells
Implementation Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Property Rights</th>
<th>Water Rights (Struve)</th>
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<th>Permitting</th>
<th>Design/Construct Harkins</th>
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Environmental Review Process
California Environmental Quality Act

• Encourage agencies to minimize impacts of projects on the environment
• Facilitate public involvement in project planning

• CEQA Roles and Responsibilities
  • Lead Agency – PV Water
  • Other Agencies
    • National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, State Water Resources Control Board, Regional Water Quality Control Board, CA Department of Fish & Wildlife, Santa Cruz County, etc
  • Office of Planning and Research and State Clearinghouse
  • The Public
Environmental Impact Report Process

- **Initiate Scoping Process**
- **Public Review & Comment Period**
- **Prepare Draft EIR**
- **Public Review & Comment Period**
- **Prepare Responses to Comments**
- **Certification Process**

**Timeline:**
- May 2019
- Nov/Dec 2019
- Feb/Mar 2020

**Notes:**
- Need updated image from Katz with the “P” in PEIR removed.
- June 12, 2019
Relation to BMP Update Program EIR

BMP Update PEIR
- Analyzed 7 BMP Update projects including slough projects
- Level of Analysis: General
- Identified 16 significant environmental impacts for the Slough Projects
- Identified 33 mitigation measures to reduce impacts of the Slough Projects
- Mitigation Measures adopted by PV Water Board of Directors

Slough Projects EIR
- Focus: Harkins Slough and Struve Slough Projects*
- Other BMP Update projects considered in cumulative impacts
- Level of Analysis: more detailed, based on current design, construction, operations information
- Adopted mitigation measures now part of the Projects

* The Struve Slough Project was called the Watsonville Slough with Recharge Basins Project in the BMP Update PEIR.
EIR Content

• Executive Summary
• Project Description
  • Purpose and objectives, design, construction and operation of Project Components; Approvals
• Environmental Setting
• Environmental Impacts
• Ways to Reduce Significant Impacts
  • Mitigation Measures
  • Alternatives
Issues to be Investigated in the EIR

- Land Use and Agricultural Resources
- Surface Water, Groundwater, and Water Quality
- Biological Resources
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Noise
- Transportation and Traffic
- Cultural Resources
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Utilities
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Aesthetic Resources
- Cumulative Impacts
- Alternatives
Comments

• Notice of Preparation (NOP) available online: www.pvwater.org/bmp-update

• Written comments accepted through 5:00 pm, July 1, 2019

• Submit written comments by comment card, mail or email:

  Brian Lockwood, General Manager
  Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
  36 Brennan Street
  Watsonville, CA 95076
  Email: eir@pvwater.org
Questions and Comments
Additional Slides